SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the miserable plight of Sri Lankan Tamils has been there for the past 25 years. If you go to Europe, you can see Eelam Tamils everywhere. Today, the Government itself recognises that in the North, 1,50,000 Tamils have been displaced. I know that the Army there is fighting terrorism. But, instead of fighting terrorism, the cruelty is that they are killing innocent Tamils. The Tamils are left with nothing. They are suffering without food, without medicines. The Rajapakse Government has decided to fight till the end. They have sent the Army to areas near Kilinochchi. They cannot settle the issue through army operations. The terrorism problem cannot be solved by the Defence personnel. It requires a political solution. So, I urge upon the Indian Government to use its good offices, pressurise the Sri Lankan Government to arrive at a political settlement on the issue. It is our neighbour; we want a peaceful neighbour. And, our Government has got a lot of influence over the Sri Lankan Government. India has got a greater role to play in settling this issue, and they have to intervene in the matter. That is my appeal. I would also request the Government to make a statement on that.

श्री शरद यादव (बिहार): उपसभापति जी, मैं अपने आपको इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now the hon. Minister would make a statement on the successful launching of Chandrayaan-1.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Successful Launch of Chandrayaan-1 to the Moon

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I am happy to inform this august House that India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C 11 successfully launched Chandrayaan spacecraft, India's first unmanned scientific mission, to the moon, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The launch of PSLV-C 11 was the 14th flight in the PSLV series. The launch vehicle systems have performed satisfactorily. The main scientific objective of Chandrayaan 1 mission is to orbit around the moon and carry out the high resolution remote-sensing for preparing the three-dimensional atlas of the moon and in carrying out chemical and mineralogical mapping to the lunar surface. The spacecraft has 11 scientific instruments from India and from the Universities and laboratories of the European Space Agency, the U.S.A. and Bulgaria. Today, Chandrayaan 1 spacecraft has been placed into an elliptical intermediate orbit of 255/22,860 kms. around the earth. In the coming days, the spacecraft will be manoeuvred using its own on-board propulsion system to attain an orbit around the moon which is nearly 4 lakh kms. away from the earth.

I am sure that this House will join me in congratulating the Chairman and the entire team at the ISRO in the realisation and management of the complex India's unmanned scientific mission to the moon.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION *(contd.)*

Plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka - *contd.*

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, my heart pains and fills with sorrow for the innocent Sri Lankan Tamils. India cannot remain a silent spectator – this problem has been there for the past 50 years so far India remained silent – ignoring the sufferings of Tamilians in Sri